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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 422  
By Jackson

A RESOLUTION To honor Sam Delk Kennedy and Elizabeth  
"Betty" Ridley Finney Kennedy for their lifetime  
of achievements.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly are pleased to honor those individuals and families who have served as guardians of the people's right to be informed by owning and operating family community newspapers; and

WHEREAS, Sam and Betty Kennedy are one such couple who, over the years, have provided vigorous and informative local news coverage in Maury County and the adjacent areas in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Betty's grandfather, James I. Finney, was once the Editor of the *Tennessean*, along with other pursuits; her father, John W. Finney, was a longtime Editor and Publisher of the *Columbia Daily Herald*; and

WHEREAS, When John Finney died, his son-in-law, Sam Kennedy, a young District Attorney, took over the *Herald* as a Columnist and Publisher; he acquired family stock,

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eventually owning one-half of the *Herald*, and then was in charge of the paper, with his wife, Betty, working in advertising until 1983, when they sold the *Herald*; and

WHEREAS, After having been approached to run for Maury County Executive, Sam was elected in 1990 and served one term; as County Executive, he concerned himself with industrial recruiting, relationships with Saturn, and the promotion of Columbia State Community College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kennedy now has four weekly newspapers, *The Lawrence County Advocate*, *The Waverly Democrat*, *The Parsons News Leader*, and *The Buffalo River Review*; these provide him with a more satisfying way to spend his "retirement years" than holding public office; and

WHEREAS, In addition to having been an Attorney and former District Attorney, County Executive, and newspaper Publisher, Sam Kennedy has served as a Judge, a member of the State Board of Education, a Legislative Representative for the Tennessee Press Association, a past President of the Chamber of Commerce, the past President of the Tennessee Press Association, the past President of the International Audit Bureau of Circulations, and the past President of the Maury County Bar Association; he is a veteran and a former service officer; and

WHEREAS, Betty gave full support to Sam in the publishing business and throughout his service in public office; she served as a Tennessee Press Association Board Member and was active in Democratic politics with her husband; together they are the proud parents of Delk and Elizabeth and the grandparents of five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Delk Kennedy is Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee and his wife, Mary Susan Berry Kennedy, is a Business Professor at Columbia State Community College; their children are Sam III and Berry; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth is married to Billy Blackstone, who is a member of the firm Holton, Goodman and Blackstone in Nashville, and they live next door to her parents; Elizabeth and Billy are the parents of Emory, Jack and Eliza; and

WHEREAS, Sam Kennedy's wisdom, at least on one occasion, earned the attention of David S. Broder who came to Columbia following the Watergate expose' to probe the public's perception of the scandal while touring the Sixth Congressional District, with the incumbent Republican Congressman Robin Beard; urged by Beard to meet Sam, Broder was sufficiently impressed by Mr. Kennedy's succinct analysis of the local public mood to write a column about it; and

WHEREAS, The life that this remarkable couple has led together in private business and public office is a sterling example of the efficacy of intelligence, integrity, family values, and pursuit of the public good in creating success in one's profession, family life and personal relationships; the example of the lifetime achievements of Sam and Betty Kennedy is worthy of our praise, admiration and emulation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Sam and Betty Kennedy for their lives of accomplishment and public service, and that we extend to them our best wishes for every success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.